

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 06473 011538Z

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (RICHARDSON, ELLIOT), MO

SUBJECT: DEPARTURE STATEMENT AND TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND

ANSWERS AT PRESS CONFERENCE BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

RICHARDSON AT RABAT-SALE AIRPORT ON NOVEMBER 30,1976

USIA FOR INA IPS IBS

1. FOLLOWING IS ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF SUBJECT STATEMENT
WHICH WAS DELIVERED IN FRENCH:

QUOTE. IT HAS BEEN A PARTICULAR HONOR AND PLEASURE FOR
ME TO BE IN YOUR MARVELOUS COUNTRY. I HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO
JUST SUCH A VISIT FOR MANY YEARS AND REGRET ONLY THAT IT MUST
BE SO SHORT. MOROCCAN HOSPITALITY IS DESERVEDLY RENOWNED
AND I HAVE BEEN IN NO WAY DISAPPOINTED.

I HAVE INDEED BEEN ENORMOUSLY IMPRESSED WITH WHAT I HAVE
SEEN AND HEARD DURING MY BRIEF STAY. YOURS IS CLEARLY A
COUNTRY ON THE MOVE -- CONCRETE PROGRESS AND THE PROMISE OF
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ARE EVIDENT EVERYWHERE.

I AM, OF COURSE, PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCE BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS. FORTUNATELY,
WE HAVE A LONG TRADITION OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION
ON WHICH TO BUILD. OUR RELATIONS GO BACK TWO HUNDRED
YEARS AND HAVE ENJOYED UNBROKEN CONTINUITY, NEVER HAVING
BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY REGIONAL AND WORLD CRISES.

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PAGE 02 RABAT 06473 011538Z

OUR TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, FIRST SIGNED AND RATIFIED IN

1787 AND STILL IN FORCE TODAY, IS THE OLDEST SUCH TREATY IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AND MAY BE THE LONGEST-STANDING SUCH TREATY IN THE WORLD TODAY. WHATEVER THE ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON, MOROCCO CAN DEPEND ON AMERICAN DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN OUR TRADITIONAL EXCELLENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TIES. I AM PLANNING TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT FORD IN DETAIL ON MY VISIT, WHICH I BELIEVE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONTINUITY WHICH WE BOTH SEEK. MY DISCUSSIONS IN MOROCCO HAVE BEEN VERY FRUITFUL; I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER OSMAN, WHO RECEIVED ME THIS AFTERNOON. I ALSO APPRECIATED THE VERY USEFUL DISCUSSIONS I HAD LAST EVENING WITH ACTING COMMERCE MINISTER MOUSSA SAADI. MY CONTACTS HERE WITH OFFICIAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS EXPOSED ME TO THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE U.S. TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE MOROCCAN DESIRE FOR AN INCREASED FLOW OF AMERICAN INVESTMENT, TECHNOLOGY, AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS. MY INITIAL CONCLUSION IS THAT THE FUTURE HOLDS CONSIDERABLE PROMISE IN THESE AND OTHER AREAS. I INTEND TO IMPRESS UPON MY SUCCESSOR THE POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF U.S. MOROCCAN COOPERATION IN THIS REGARD. MY WARM THANKS GO TO OUR MOROCCAN FRIENDS FOR MAKING MY VISIT SO USEFUL. UNQUOTE.

2.FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOLLOWING DEPARTURE STATEMENT: QUOTE

1. Q. MR. SECRETARY, THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF THE PAPER LE MATIN. THE NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE HAS JUST POSTPONED ITS WORK UNTIL NEXT MARCH OR APRIL. CAN YOU GIVE US THE AMERICAN POSITION?

2. A. - WELL, I THINK WE WILL RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REASONS WHY SUCH A STEP WOULD HAVE BEEN DECIDED UPON AT THIS TIME FROM OUR OWN POINT OF VIEW, WE RECOGNIZE OF COURSE THAT WE ARE NOW AT A TIME OF TRANSITION BETWEEN AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS AND ONE ADVANTAGE OF THE POSTPONEMENT WILL BE TO ENABLE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW THE HISTORY OF THE DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 RABAT 06473 011538Z

DURING THE LAST YEAR AND TO MAKE SOME DECISIONS ABOUT HOW MOST USEFULLY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONFERENCE WHEN IT IS RESUMED IN MARCH. WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT GREATER PROGRESS HAS NOT BEEN MADE AND I THINK THAT NOT ONLY FROM OUR OWN POINT OF VIEW BUT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO TAKE SOME ADDITIONAL TIME IN WHICH TO

DECIDE WHERE WE GO FROM HERE.

2. Q. - MR. SECRETARY, COULD YOU, AS THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY QUESTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, TELL US WHERE THE POLICY OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE IS NOW?

A.- WE HAVE BEEN MAKING SOME PROGRESS TOWARD AN ULTIMATELY LOWER LEVEL OF DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL, BUT LESS RAPID THAN WE HAD HOPED. THE MOST IMPORTANT UNDERTAKINGS INVOLVE LONG LEADTIMES AND IN ADDITION VERY LARGE AMOUNTS OF INVESTMENT. IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION WAS UNABLE TO PERSUADE THE CONGRESS TO ENACT ALL THE MEASURES THAT WE BELIEVE NECESSARY TO MOVE TOWARD A GREATER DEGREE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY. WE HOPE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL ADOPT MOST OF THESE MEASURES AND THEY WILL BE ENACTED IN THE NEXT CONGRESS. WE RECOGNIZE IN ANY CASE THAT COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES FROM IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM IS NOT A FEASIBLE GOAL. WE WOULD BE DOING WELL BY 1985 TO REDUCE OUR DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS TO APPROXIMATELY 4 AND A HALF MILLION BARRELS A DAY. MEANWHILE WE WILL SHORTLY BEGIN TO PUT INTO PLACE THE STRATEGIC RESERVE CALLED FOR BY THE PRESENT LEGISLATION WHICH AT ITS OUTSET WILL BE AT A LEVEL OF ABOUT 500 MILLION BARRELS AND THEN LATER INCREASE TO A BILLION BARRELS. WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF THIS RESERVE AND WITH THE FULFILLMENT OF OTHER CONTEMPLATED MEASURES WE WOULD BE CAPABLE OF RELATIVE INDEPENDENCE IN ANY CRISIS BY 1985. UNQUOTE.ANDERSON
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PAGE 04 RABAT 06473 011538Z

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